Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ORAN 00064 041123Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /091 W
----------017040 041336Z /64
R 041036Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL ORAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0081
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ORAN 0064

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, UR, AG
SUBJ: SOVIET OFFICE IN ORAN

REFS: A) ORAN MEMO TO EMBASSY ALGIERS DATED 22 FEB 78
B) ORAN 0040 (NOTAL)

1. SOVIET UNION APPEARS TO BE OPENING OFFICE HERE. PREMISES LOCATED NEXT DOOR TO "DAIRA"(COUNTRY) GOVERNMENT CENTER FOR ORAN ON BOULE-AVRD "ALN" (EX-FRONT DE MER"), ABOUT FIVE BLOCKS EAST OF AMERICAN AND MOROCCAN CONSULATES.

2. FIRST SIGNS OF POSSIBLE STEPS TOWARDS OPENING OF SOVIET CONSULATE OR MISSION HERE REPORTED TO EMBASSY ALGIERS LAST FEBRUARY (REF A). ABSENCE OF FLAG, SIGN, PLAQUE OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION, PLUS PHYSICAL LINK BETWEEN SOVIET AND "DAIRA" OFFICES AT THAT TIME VIA CONNECTING SECOND FLOOR PASSAGEWAY, LED US TO DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THEN.

3. NO SIGN OR PLAQUE YET INSTALLED. SOVIET FLAG, HOWEVER, HAS NOW BEEN FLYING OVER BUILDING DAILY FOR PAST WEEK, AND WORK APPEARS UNDERWAY TO DISMANTLE PASSAGEWAY.

4. THUS FAR NEITHER WE NOR OTHER CONSULATES HERE HAVE HAD ANY NOTIFI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ORAN 00064 041123Z

CATION, EITHER FROM SOVIETS OR LOCAL ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES, ABOUT POSSIBLE NEW OFFICE. FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL BELIEVES SOVIETS ARE INDEED IN PROCESS OF OPENING CONSULATE. ANOTHER SOURCE HAS HEARD IT WILL BE RUSSIAN ECONOMIC MISSION.

5. RATIONALE FOR SOVIET OFFICE IN ORAN NOT YET CLEAR TO US. ALTHOUGH SMALL NUMBER OF RUSSIAN AND OTHER BLOC TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN IN ORAN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

AREA FOR SOME YEARS, THERE NO SOVIET DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OR COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS HERE LARGE ENOUGH, IN OUR VIEW, TO WARRANT EITHER ECONOMIC MISSION OR CONSULATE. RUSSIAN MILITARY ADVISORS HAVE ALSO BEEN STATIONED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AT BOU SFER, ALGERIAN AIRFIELD SOUTHWEST OF MERS EL KEBIR NAVAL BASE, AND AT TAFARAOUI AIR TRAINING BASE CLOSE TO ORAN CIVIL AIRPORT. FROM THESE POINTS THEY EASILY ABLE TO OVERSEE NOT ONLY RUSSIAN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THIS PART OF ALGERIA, BUT ALSO REGULAR DELIVERIES OF SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLIES AT MERS EL KEBIR AND ONWARD MOVEMENT OF THESE MUNITIONS BOTH TO ALGERIAN ARMED FORCES HERE AS WELL AS TOWARDS POLISARIO GUERRILLAS IN WESTERN SAHARA.

6. IF SOVIETS WIN CONTRACT FOR FORTHCOMING CIVILIAN SHIPYARD AT MERS EL KEBIR (REF B), AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY HAVE SUBMITTED BID, THEIR INTERESTS AND PRESENCE IN ORAN WOULD OBVIOUSLY INCREASE. WE DOUBT, THOUGH, THAT RUSSIANS WOULD PROCEED TO OPEN OFFICE HERE ON THAT BASIS UNTIL CONTRACT AWARDED.

7. CONSULATE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS HERE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE.
HEYNIGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPENING OF OFFICES, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ORAN00064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-0832
Format: TEL
From: ORAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780593/aaaadbnj.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dfe298a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ORAN 2
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2793237
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET OFFICE IN ORAN
TAGS: PDIP, UR, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dfe298a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014